



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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RED SNAPPER COMMERCIAL FISHERY IN GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS WILL OPEN AT NOON, MARCH 1, 2006

NOAA Fisheries Service announces the commercial fishery for red snapper in Gulf of Mexico federal waters will open at noon, local time, on March 1, 2006, and will close at noon, local time, on March 10, 2006. The 2006 Gulf of Mexico commercial red snapper quota is 4.65 million pounds. The commercial fishing season is divided into spring and fall seasons. The spring season begins at noon, local time, on February 1, with 3.10 million pounds available, and the fall season begins at noon, local time, on October 1, with the remainder of the annual quota available. During the spring and fall seasons, fishing will be allowed the first 10 days of each month until the quota is caught. Preliminary landings data for February 1-10, 2006, totaled 296,835 pounds of red snapper landed. Therefore, a total of 2,803,165 pounds remain in the spring quota. The operator of a vessel with a valid reef fish permit and a Class 1 or Class 2 red snapper license having red snapper aboard must have landed and sold such red snapper before noon, local time, on March 10, 2006. The minimum size for the commercial fishery is 15 inches total length.

NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management, and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries Service provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners and nearly 60 countries to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes. This and other news releases are available on the SERO homepage at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>.